

**THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ**

**Law Department**

*4 World Trade Center  
150 Greenwich Street  
New York, NY 10007*

May 31, 2019

Ms. Emma Best  
MuckRock News  
Dept. MR 74510, 411 A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Email: [74510-97923019@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:74510-97923019@requests.muckrock.com)

Re: Public Records Access No. 20469

Dear Ms. Best:

This is in response to your May 30, 2019 request, which has been assigned the above-referenced filing number under the Port Authority's Public Records Access Policy.

We would be very happy to respond to your request. But as it is currently framed, your request is exceptionally broad. The request is not specific and precise as to what records are actually being sought, and the request seeks an inordinately large volume of records. Broad requests can require an enormous expenditure of agency resources, and can take an especially long period of time for us to turn around on your behalf. And with broad requests, it can be especially difficult for us to discern what is important to the requester, and what the requester may have included only to help ensure that he or she is getting what is especially crucial from his or her perspective. Against this backdrop, we ask that you modify your request, to make it substantially more narrow and more specific --- so that we can work efficiently, with a focus on getting you the materials that are most important to you. If we don't hear from you one way or another within five business days, we will close this request. If we do hear from you within five business days, we will begin our work.

Very truly yours,



William Shalewitz  
FOI Administrator

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**From:** 74510-97923019@requests.muckrock.com

**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2019 3:05:51 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

**To:** PA FOI

**Subject:** New York Freedom of Information Law Request: Anonymous + general hacktivists 2009-2018 (The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey)

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The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey  
FOIL Office  
4 World Trade Center, 25th Floor  
150 Greenwich Street  
New York, NY, NY 10007

May 30, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the New York Freedom of Information Law, I hereby request the following records:

Documents mentioning or relating to Anonymous (the hacker movement/collective, see below) or hacktivism (defined as hacking as a form of protest and/or activism) generated between 1 January 2009 and 1 January 2019, including but not limited to:

- \* Internal reports, bulletins, warnings and alerts relating to Anonymous or hacktivism
- \* Reports from the appropriate IT (Information Technology) or computer offices regarding possible cyber attacks by Anonymous or other hacktivists
- \* Reports, bulletins, warnings and alerts sent to or received from either the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, any fusion center or federal agency relating to or mentioning Anonymous or hacktivism
- \* Incident reports investigating possible hacking activity falling within the office's jurisdiction and allegedly carried out by members of Anonymous or other hacktivist groups
- \* Materials generated as a result of any suspected or actual compromise, breach or "dox" (revealing of personal or private information) by Anonymous or other hacktivists

Anonymous has been described by government agencies as a non-hierarchical hacktivist collective, Anonymous uses hacking (and arguably cracking) techniques to register political protest in campaigns known as “#ops.” Best known for their distributed denial of services (DDoS) attacks, past activities have included attacks against the Church of Scientology; Visa, Paypal, and others who withdrew their services from WikiLeaks’ Julian Assange after that group began releasing war documents; #OpTunisia and others purporting to support the Arab Spring; and a campaign that brought down the website of the Westboro Baptist Church. #Ops are usually marked with the release of a video of a reader in a Guy Fawkes mask using a computer generated voice. See attached for additional background information.

I am a member of the news media and request classification as such. I have previously written about the government and its activities, with some reaching over 100,000 readers. As such, as I have a reasonable expectation of publication and my editorial and writing skills are well established. In addition, I discuss and comment on the files online and make them available through non-profits such as the Internet Archive and MuckRock, disseminating them to a large audience. While my research is not limited to this, a great deal of it, including this, focuses on the activities and attitudes of the government itself. As such, it is not necessary for me to demonstrate the relevance of this particular subject in advance.

As my primary purpose is to inform about government activities by reporting on it and making the raw data available, I request that fees be waived.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 5 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Emma Best

Filed via MuckRock.com

E-mail (Preferred): 74510-97923019@requests.muckrock.com

Upload documents directly:

[https://accounts.muckrock.com/accounts/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.muckrock.com%2Faccounts%2Flogin%2F%3Fnext%3D%252Faccounts%252Fagency\\_login%252Fthe-port-authority-of-new-york-and-new-jersey-2408%252Fanonymous-general-hacktivist-2009-2018-the-port-authority-of-new-york-and-new-jersey-74510%252F%253Femail%253Dpafoi%252540panynj.gov&url\\_auth\\_token=AAATjr4IXB07AWpztaqiXXvHfxY%3A1hWQN4%3AWEgNvJj0zMOu7L\\_rPisVzbo9Zo](https://accounts.muckrock.com/accounts/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.muckrock.com%2Faccounts%2Flogin%2F%3Fnext%3D%252Faccounts%252Fagency_login%252Fthe-port-authority-of-new-york-and-new-jersey-2408%252Fanonymous-general-hacktivist-2009-2018-the-port-authority-of-new-york-and-new-jersey-74510%252F%253Femail%253Dpafoi%252540panynj.gov&url_auth_token=AAATjr4IXB07AWpztaqiXXvHfxY%3A1hWQN4%3AWEgNvJj0zMOu7L_rPisVzbo9Zo)

Is this email coming to the wrong contact? Something else wrong? Use the above link to let us know.

For mailed responses, please address (see note):

MuckRock News

DEPT MR 74510

411A Highland Ave

Somerville, MA 02144-2516

PLEASE NOTE: This request is not filed by a MuckRock staff member, but is being sent through MuckRock by the above in order to better track, share, and manage public records requests. Also note that improperly addressed (i.e., with the requester's name rather than "MuckRock News" and the department number) requests might be returned as undeliverable.